

REMARKS

This is in response to the Office Action that was mailed on June 15, 2006. Applicants gratefully acknowledge the indicated allowability of claims 12-15 and 17-20. Claims 1-7 and 9-11 are cancelled, without prejudice. No new matter is introduced by this Amendment. Entry of this Amendment after Final Rejection is respectfully solicited. With this Amendment, claims 12-15 and 17-20 are pending in the application.

Claims 1-7 and 9-11 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over each of US 4,139,342 (Sheldrake et al.) and *IEEE*, vol. 20, no. 2, pp. 203-212 (Dvornikov et al.) and US 6,115,344 (Gudsen et al.) and US 6,413,655 B2 (Otani et al.) and US 6,432,610 B1 (Rentzepis et al.) and *Optics Communications*, vol. 212, Issues 1-3, page 45-50 (Tanaka et al.). Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the stated rejections, solely in order to advance the prosecution of this application all of the rejected claims are cancelled.

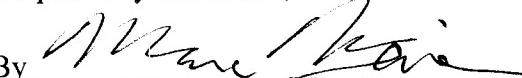
Inasmuch as all of the claims remaining in this application have been allowed, the Examiner is respectfully request to pass this application to Issue.

If there are any questions concerning the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Richard Gallagher, Registration No. 28,781, at (703) 205-8008.

Dated:

SEP 1 2006

Respectfully submitted,

By 
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